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Letter dated 26 April 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, on behalf of the European Community and its 12 Member States, to refer to your letters dated 23 January and 9 April 1991 relating to your request for information on measures taken by Governments to alleviate the economic and humanitarian difficulties of the States most affected by the sanctions against Iraq and whose requests for assistance have been considered and approved by the Security Council. In that connection, I am enclosing a summary statement of the humanitarian and economic assistance provided by the European Community. This aid has been provided to countries which have made requests for assistance under Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations and to other countries seriously affected by the Gulf crisis.

The total amount of the assistance provided to date is approximately 898.5 million écus, or approximately $US 1.2 billion.

Apart from these measures taken by the European Community, the Twelve have supported the efforts of other multilateral organizations and members of the Community have also taken action on a bilateral basis.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean FEYDER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Summary statement of humanitarian and economic assistance provided by the European Community

The European Community has provided the following humanitarian and economic assistance to the States most affected by the sanctions against Iraq:

In connection with its action in response to the Gulf crisis, the European Community has provided 898.5 million écus (approximately $1.2 billion) in financial assistance since the beginning of the year. This amount breaks down as follows:

- Humanitarian assistance to displaced persons and refugees. Under this heading, the European Commission has financed, inter alia, the repatriation of migrant workers to their countries of origin (2.7 million écus), emergency medical assistance for Palestinians in southern Lebanon (265,000 écus) and humanitarian assistance to inhabitants of Iraq (3.55 million écus) and Kuwait (340,000 écus) — 7.5 million écus

- Financial assistance to front-line countries: Egypt, Jordan, Turkey — 500 million écus

- Food aid for Palestinians: regular programme through UNRWA — 20 million écus

- Special food aid to Palestinians in the occupied territories: special programme necessitated by the Gulf crisis, through UNRWA — 5.6 million écus

- Emergency food aid to Palestinians in the occupied territories (through UNRWA) to meet additional difficulties resulting from the curfew currently in effect — 7.9 million écus

- "Symmetrical" financial assistance for Israel (balance-of-payments loan of 260 million écus, plus interest-rate subsidies of 27.5 million écus, and for the occupied territories (60 million écus) — 247.5 million écus

- Humanitarian assistance for the victims of the Gulf conflict — 110 million écus

In addition, it will be recalled that the European Community had already decided to double its financing for development projects in the occupied territories to a total of 12 million écus in 1992. In December 1991, the

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European Community granted emergency assistance totalling 4.5 million écus to enable eight Palestinian hospitals in the West Bank and Gaza to operate during the first half of 1991.

The European Community has thus provided 898.6 million écus in assistance since 1 January 1991.